a little tremulous, the wavy surface appeared to touch the limb of the planet at times, and the time given of internal contact is when the continuity of the limb was first permanently broken and was considered very exact; there was nothing approaching the phenomenon of the black drop, nor was the planet at all distorted, though the slight boiling motion might (for the shortest possible moment) give one the idea of a fine line or hair joining the two bodies, but nothing definite or decided was seen. The planet was not in the faintest degree visible after passing off the Sun's disk. No sunspots were seen.

Meteor Showers derived from Foreign Observations: July to December. By W. F. Denning, Esq.

The showers given in the Table which follows were selected from a large number of such positions resulting from the projection of several thousand meteor-paths in the Catalogues of Heis, Weiss, Schiaparelli (1872), Zezioli, and Konkoly. occur during the last half of the year and afford examples of well defined and active radiants, many of which will no doubt be frequently reobserved in future years. The list includes 79 of these meteor-streams, and 1,874 shooting stars were found conformable to them, giving an average of nearly 24 for each centre. The periods assigned are merely approximate. They relate simply to the dates for which the reductions were undertaken and afford no clue to the whole duration of many of the showers. Any extended references here to these newly ascertained centres are rendered unnecessary by the column of Notes affixed to them, in which many agreements and comparisons with old showers are specified; but in a few cases it seems desirable to add some particulars to what is already mentioned in the Table. group of reductions are for July 25-31, when the Perseids (No. 4) formed the most active shower and there were good contemporary radiants near  $\theta$  Persei (No. 5) and  $\beta$  Persei (No. 3). The major shower of Perseids (near  $\eta$  Persei, showing a strong maximum on August 10) appears to continue certainly until the middle of September from precisely the same diverging focus as in July (compare Nos. 4 and 30 in the list). July also furnishes a good radiant close to  $\psi$  Cassiopeiæ which is well confirmed by Greg and Herschel and Heis, and further supported by a first magnitude stationary meteor observed by Billerbeck, at Rastenburg, on July 28, 1851, at 12°+76°, though the position is rather too far north. For August 6–12 there are some extremely well marked showers eastwards of the usual Perseids, several of which were already discovered by Heis in the years 1833-75, or by myself during a

number of morning observations in August 1877. The most noteworthy of these is a shower in Camelopardus (No. 14), near the stars p, q (of Bode), that had hitherto escaped discovery, though it is a rich and well defined radiant, which I have already referred to in the Notices (vol. xxxviii., p. 114), with maximum probably on about August 10. Another important system for the same epoch is given at c Camelopardi (No. 12), but this had already been seen by Heis and was independently found by me on the mornings of August 10-12, 1877. Mr. J. E. Clark, at York, also suspected a radiant here on August 10, 1871. The shower at 132°+77° (Nos. 10 and 21, July 25—August 12) appears to be a new position, and it is worthy of note that it falls exactly in the place of a strong October radiant. No. 22, at 74° + 33°, is not quite certain as regards the exact point of radiation, which I suspect is a little further west, at  $77^{\circ} + 32^{\circ}$ . No. 33 is a prominent September shower well seen by me in 1877, September 4-15 A.M., at 61°+36° (15 \$), and it agrees with two old positions determined by Schiaparelli (from Zezioli's observations) and Tupman, namely:—

S. & Z. No. 147 Sept. 8 
$$60 + 32$$
  
T. No. 64 Sept. 7-15  $66 + 40$  Mean at  $63^{\circ} + 36^{\circ}$ .

Of the autumnal showers the Orionids (No. 47), Taurids I (No. 41), and Gemellids (No. 40) of October supply the chief examples, but these have already been well investigated by Greg. It may, however, be said of the Orionids that they certainly continue until November 12, for a very exact radiant, coinciding with that shower, is shown there from the meteor-paths traced by Zezioli (see No. 70). As to the Taurids I (No. 41), the whole duration of the major radiant would seem to be from about October 12 to the first week in December; but there are several showers lying near together here, which it is necessary to disassociate. With this object in view I recently collected and compared all the observations of this system and found that, from 38 different determinations, there are probably four bordering showers of Taurids in October—November, as follows:—

	0 0		
1	At 62+21	Oct. 12—Dec. 6	21 radiants.
$\mathbf{II}$	At 56+24	Nov. 1-13	6 radiants.
III	At 53+16	Oct. 6-Nov. 9	6 radiants.
IV	At 60+ 9	Oct. 10-22	5 radiants.

I is the major radiant with a sharply defined, persistent centre enduring apparently for 7 weeks. II is at the *Pleiades* (see No. 54 in the Table) and well observed by Greg and Herschel, Tupman, and myself, and at Greenwich. III appears equally certain. It was noted by Tupman in 1869 and by Backhouse in the same year. IV requires more observations, but

Schmidt's radiant at 62°+6°, October 10-22, and Tupman's, at 58°+10°, October 13, are perhaps sufficient to establish it beyond doubt, and its continuation in November is extremely probable, for Heis, at Munster, recorded a stationary meteor on November 13, 1869, at 58°+12°, and 38 other shooting stars converged on the same centre during the first half of the month. These several showers of Taurids should be carefully reobserved and the distinctive features of the meteors proceeding from them noted in each case. In the mornings of October—November the Gemellids (No. 40) also constitute a prominent shower. Gruber, from his October 17-28 reductions, places the centre at 109°5+25°2, October 22-27, and Schiaparelli and Zezioli, 113°+29°, for October 21-25, 1868 (56 meteors). This radiant was traced, as far back as 1839, by Herrick. Of the remaining October showers the most conspicuous examples are at 62°+47° (No. 45),  $81^{\circ}+23^{\circ}$  (No. 35),  $81^{\circ}+54^{\circ}$  (No. 34, Aurigids), and  $86^{\circ}+34^{\circ}$  (No. 50). The former was chiefly deduced from the meteors in Weiss's catalogue and is verified by several other No. 35 agrees in position with the Taurids II observations. (No. 72), but the dates are too widely distant to allow an inference of connection. No. 34 is one of several contemporary showers of Aurigids. No. 50 was strikingly well seen by Zezioli on October 21, 1868 (17 $\downarrow$ s), and this position, close to  $\theta$  Aurigæ, is otherwise well supported as a prominent shower centre and separate from No. 39 at 78°+33°. For the first half of November the Table contains several good instances of morning showers, now satisfactorily determined for the first time. is a rich stream at  $142^{\circ} + 29^{\circ}$ , near  $\kappa - \mu Leonis$  (No. 61), accurately indicated by 31 paths and quite distinct to the Leonids. Schmidt saw this radiant at 140°+23° on October 19-27 and on the mornings of October 15-18, 1877, I traced a shower of swift, streakleaving meteors (one of them stationary) from an exact centre at 140°+28°. The members of this stream have no doubt been confused hitherto with the Leonids, for the positions are close together and the phenomenon of streaks is a characteristic of the members of both systems. Schmidt's position for the new shower is about 5° too far south of the true centre, and it is rather remarkable that for December 9-12 there is also a good radiant at 143°+28°, which, agreeing so closely in place, seems merely a continuation of it. The other November showers given in the list are also very satisfactory and confirmed in nearly every case by Zezioli, Tupman, or myself during numerous morning watches in that month.

The Taurids II (No. 72) of December, with a strong maximum on about the 6th, had long escaped observation, appearing as they did at a time when the Geminids occupied attention, and there is little doubt that many of these Taurids were attributed to the wrong stream. A stationary meteor belonging to it was recorded by Bartel, at Brünn, on December 11, 1869, at 82°·9+22°·9, and this position, close to ζ Tauri, has been amply

Nov. 1878.

confirmed by Greg and others. The shower in Camelopardus (No. 79), at 110°+70°, is a new one, but we require further observations before it can be safely regarded as established beyond doubt. The December showers, Nos. 73 to 77, in Cancer, Leo, and Ursa, agree very exactly with showers deduced for November (compare Nos. 62, 58, 63, 61, and 57); in fact it would seem, from a careful inspection of the observations, that these several radiant centres are in continuous operation from the middle of October to the middle of December! Yet such long duration is inadmissible on theoretical grounds, and to obviate the difficulty we have to assume a succession of distinct showers having, curiously enough, the same points of departure though no real connection exists between them. Whether the effects of planetary perturbations on these attenuated meteor streams is such as to diffuse them over a considerable epoch without sensibly altering the radiant points has yet to be ascertained; meanwhile observers will state the legitimate result of their labours apart from theoretical considerations, however incompatible they may at first appear.

A Synopsis of Old and New Meteor Showers (occurring during the last half of the year), derived from the Meteor Paths recorded in the Catalogues of Heis, Weiss, Zezioli, Schiaparelli, and Konkoly.

Remarks and Comparisons with previous Observations.	12+70, July 7-Aug. 4, G. & H.; 15+70, July 28-29, H. Well seen in 1878, at 12+70, July 26-Aug. 2 (16 \subseteq s), D. See No. 56.	Beginning of No. 12; requires verification.	38+38, July 31, 1856, Heis (stationary meteor). See No. 45.	Early members of the great August shower, with max. on 10th. See No. 30. Very few seen before Aug. 7, 1878, D.	37+48, July 19-Aug. 2, H.; 35+47, July, D. See No. 44. A very fine shower (63 \(\psi\)s) July 21-Aug. 1, 1878, at 32+53; maximum, July 30-Aug. 1, D.	New shower. 23+41, July 29-Aug. I, 1878, D. Compare with No. 32.	Radiant diffuse and uncertain. 24+50, July 19-31, H.	7+50, July, S. & Z.; 6+53, July, D. Seen also by Italian observers, 1872. 12+52, July 21-Aug. 1, 1878, D.	Beginning of No. 16.) These several showers require more	Beginning of No. 21. observation in July. They are al-	Beginning of No. 15.) ready well established for Aug. 6-12.	70+65, Aug. 10-12, 1877, D.; 73+63, Aug., H.
Name of Shower or Approximate Star (Bode).	ψ Cassiopeiæ	c Camelopardi	β Persei	Perseïds	heta Persei	$\gamma$ Andromedæ	Cassiopeids	Cassiopeïds	Custos	29 Ursæ Majoris	$\mu$ Persei	c Camelopardi
Observer or Authority.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	H.W.Z. & K.	S.H.W. & K.
No. of	35	14	28	31	35	15	23	18	14	II	OI	74
Radiant Point. R.A. Dec.	15+70	99 + 19	41+40	45 + 57	32 + 51	23+41	25 + 57	13+52	48+73	130+77	63 + 50	70+64
Period of Shower.	July 25–31 and Aug. 13	July 25-31	July 25–31 and Aug. 13	July 25-31	July 25–31 and Aug. 13	July 25-31	July 25-3I	July 25-31	July $25-31$	July 25-31	July 25-31	Aug. 6-12
Ref. No.	·	81	8	4	ru.	.9	7	<b>∞</b>	6	OI	ÌI	12

Nov.	1878.	Ol	bserva	atrons	, Jul	y to	D	ecemoer	r.			•	- 1	
1878mnras3922 <b>P</b> 64+39, Aug. 11-19, H.; 61+43, Aug. 10, Parnisetti. See o No. 49.	A new and rich shower; the chiefrad. E. of <i>Perseus</i> , Aug. 6-12. Slightly seen by D., July 30-Aug. 1, 1878. Meteors rather slow.	61+48, Aug. 3-16. 1877, D.; 56+47, Aug. 3-11, Schmidt. See No. 45. The fireball of Aug. 11, 1876, had a radiant at 60+51 (A.S.H.)	51+75, Aug. 6-12, II.; 50+75, Sept., G. & H. Compare No. 29. Seen also by D., July 26-31, 1878, at same point.	77+54, Aug. 11, 69, W.; early Aurigids. See No. 34. Stationary meteor seen by D. at 77+54, July 20, 1878.	75+45, Aug. 29, 1870, T. Well defined radiant; 3 meteors stationary.	50+48, Aug. 3-12, Schmidt; 48+48, Aug. 6, 1869, T.	94+62, Aug., G. & H. Requires more observations.	New shower. ? beginning of Heis's N <sub>1s</sub> , 130+84, Sept. Supported by 2 meteors, almost stationary, in July, on 21st, 1878, D.; and 26th, Strasser. See No. 10.	70+31, Aug. 29, 1870, T.; 70+32, Sept., Schmidt. See No. 39.	110+32, Aug. 20-25, 1871, T. (suspected). Visible just before sunrise.	A new radiant; distinct from the preceding. See No. 38.	41+34, Aug. 10, S.; and Aug. 4, T. See No. 48.	Perhaps connected with No. 14; requires confirmation.	
e Persei	p, q Camelopardi	$\mu$ Persei	Custos	8 Aurigæ	a Aurigæ	a Persei	8 Aurigæ	29 Ursæ Majoris	φ Aurigæ	θ Geminorum	Telescopium	Musea	Camelopardus	
S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	
59	106	59	29	59	43	42	42	30	28	В	17	18	20	
61 + 39	12+96	61+48	51+74	78+56	76+45	50+47	92+57	134+77	74+33	104 + 34	99+45	45 + 33	76+74	
Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6–13	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6–12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6–12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	
13	14	Feel FC	9	7	81	6	20	21	22	23	24	2,5	26	

<b>2</b> 8		1	Иr.	$D\epsilon$	enn	ing	, M	Teteor	Showe	rs j	froi	n <b>I</b>	Foreighted	$\eta n$	XXX	XIX. j
1878WRAS3922D& Remarks and Comparisons with previous Observations.	50 + 20, Aug.—Sept., 1871, Corder; 48 + 19, Aug. 10, Denza.	A new Aug. shower; requires more observations. See No. 50.	Probably the same as No. 16. 59+70, Aug. 8-12, H.	Late members of the August shower; radiant well defined.	334+48, Aug. 23, 1870, T.; same rad. as July-Aug. Lacertids.	25+46, AugSept., 1877, D.; requires more observations.	No. 13 continued. A very good shower; seen by Z., T., & D.	A long enduring shower, with diffused rad.; also Dec. 9-12, $80 + 50$ (28 $\downarrow$ s), D. and others.	<ul> <li>84+21, S. &amp; Z., Oct. 13-21; perhaps two showers close together here? Active shower, 78+23, Sept. 8-10, 1869,</li> <li>T. See No. 72.</li> </ul>	154.5 + 41.5, Sept. 15-0ct. 18, 1877, D.; a good A.M. shower.	5+53, Oct. 22-28, Schmidt; 5+55, October, G. & H.	98+45, Nov. 1877, D.; also at 105+52, in October.	Sharply defined and exact; seen also by T., Oct. 13, 1869, and D., Oct. 8, 1877.	Rich shower seen by many observers; $105+27$ (G., $1876$ ).	62+21, fireball of Nov. 23, 1877, T. A long enduring, rich, and well defined shower. N. of a Tauri.	43+22, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1877 (13 \( \)s), D.; distinct from No. 48 Muscids.
Name of Shower or Approximate Star (Bode).	η Tauri	$\theta$ Aurigæ	Camelopardus	Perseids	Lacertids	$\gamma$ Andromedæ	e Persei	8 Aurigæ	Ç Tauri	μ Ursæ Majoris	Cassiopeiæ	Telescopium	φ Aurigæ	$\mathbf{Gemellids}$	Taurids I.	e Arietis
Observer or Authority.	S.H.W. & K.	S.H.W. & K.	H.W.K. & Z.	Z. & S.	Z.	Z	Z	Z. & W.	Z. & W.	Z.	Z.	Z.	Z. & W.	Z. & W.	Z. & W.	w
No. of ↓s	14	14	OI	23 23	Ō	13	0	<b>Ö</b>	30	13	ð	8	14	5ô	65	81
Radiant Point. R.A. Dec.	52+20	87 + 34	59+70	45+57	335+47	22+45	60+37	81 + 54	81 + 23	155+41	5 + 53	98+44	78+33	108 + 24	62 + 21	40+21
Period of Showe <b>r.</b>	Åug. 6-12	Aug. 6-12	Aug. 13	Aug. 24-Sept. 14 45+57	Sept. 5-12	Sept. 5-12	Sept. 5-12	Sept. 5-Nov. 12	Sept. 5-12 and Oct. 12-31	Sept. 8-0ct.	Oct. 12–13	Oct. 12-Nov. 7	Oct. 12-31	Oct. 12-Nov. 12 108 + 24	0ct, 12-Nov, 12 62+21	Oct. 20-31
Ref. No.	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42

2.2	Nov	. 18	78 <b>.</b>		Ol	bser	vatio	ms, Ja	uly to	$D_{i}$	ecer	mbe	r.				2
1878MNRAS - 39 3	24+42, Oct. 17-31, 83 meteors, H. See No. 32.	32+50, Oct. 8, 1877, D.; exact and certain shower; meteors slow.	Strong radiant; seen at same point by D. (1877) and Italians (1872).	37+38, Oct. 17-31, II. Compare with No. 3.	Rich shower with strong max., Oct. 18-20. See No. 70.	39 + 30, Oct. 19, Gruber; 46 + 35, Aug. 22-Oct. 20, Greg.	62+37, OctNov. Italian observations, 1872; 62+37, fireball, Nov. 6, 1869. (A.S.H.)	Strong shower, Oct. 21, 1868 (Z.); 86 + 36, Nov. 7-10, 1876, Corder.	307+53, Nov. 1-13, Schmidt; not quite certain. A shower of bright meteors at 306+54 also on Sept. 1, D. and others.	A new radiant visible just before sunrise; requires further obs.	125+40, Nov. 12, 1877, D.; exact and certain.	56 + 24, Nov. 1-10, G. & H. & T. Distinct from Taurids I. (41).	Not certainly established. $111 + 65$ , Nov. 30, $1867$ , Z.	11+70, Oct. 8-14, 1877, D.; requires further watching.	130+48, Oct. 21, S. & Z.; a well known shower; seen by many observers.	$\lambda, \mu$ Ursæ Majoris 142 + 36, Nov. 10-Dec. 9, S. & Z.; radiant not well defined.	133+31, Oct. 28-Nov. 13, 1877, D.; seen also by Schmidt in December.
	$\gamma$ Andromedæ	$\theta$ Persei	μ Persei	$oldsymbol{eta}$ Persei	Orionids	Muscids	e Persei	heta Aurigæ	ψ Cygni	β Leonis	Telescopium	$\eta$ Tauri	h Lyncis	f Cassiopeiæ	ι, κ Ursæ Majoris	$\lambda, \mu$ Ursæ Majoris	ho Cancri
	W.	W.	Z. & W.	W.	Z. & W.	Z. & W.	Z. & W.	Z.	`A	W.	Z.	Z.	Z.	Z.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.
	12	12	31	22	64	24	21	56	01	<u>o</u>	6	11	6	7	56	23	15
	25+44	34 + 52	62 + 47	40 + 40	92 + 18			86 + 34	300+55	173+12	120+40	56+23	110+61	15+74	133+48	149+38	130+31
	Oct. 20–31	Oct. 20–31	Oct. 20–31	Oct. 20–31	Oct. 20–31	Oct. 20-Nov. 7	Oct. 20-Nov. 12	Oct. 21— Nov. 9–12	Oct. 19-27	Nov.	Nov. 1-7	Nov. 1-7	Nov. 1-7	Nov. 1-7	Nov. 1-15	Nov. I-I5	Nov. 1-15
	43	4	45	46	47	84	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59

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0		Mr.	Denn	ing,	Me	teor	· Sho	wer	s f	rom .	t orei	gn	XXX	1X. 1
Remarks and Comparisons with previous Observations.	A few stray members of the great periodical shower.	140+28, Oct. 15-18, 1877, D.; Schmidt also 140+23, Oct. 19-27. See No. 76.	133+21, Oct. 15-18, 1877, D.; a well marked shower. See No. 73.	120+15, Oct. 15-18, 1877, D.; radiant sharply defined. A shower here also on Sept. 25, 1878, D. See No. 75.	A shower also strongly suspected at 145+43.	Possibly a new radiant; requires further investigation.	178+34, Oct. 16-17, 1877, D.; new shower in Coma just before daybreak.	134+6, December, G. & H.; radiant not very certain.	146+16, December, Schmidt; requires further watching.	140+65, Nov. 8-Dec. 13, D.; stationary meteor seen by Billerbeck, 145+61, Nov. 13, 1852.	Compare with No. 47. Late members of the October periodical shower. Radiant sharply defined.	209 + 67, Nov. 25-Dec. 20, Corder, Denza, and D. A shower from this point also in Jan. and Feb.	A marked shower seen by D., Corder, and Sawyer, and confirmed by Greg; maximum Dec. 6.	Continuation of No. 62. Comet of 1680 8, 133 + 22, Dec. 27, 129 + 19, Dec. 21, 1876, D.
Name of Shower or Approximate Star (Bode).	Leonids	к Leonis	ð Caneri	¢ Caneri	$\theta$ Ursæ Majoris	$\mu$ Cancri	Coma Berenices	$\zeta$ Hydræ	o Leonis	au Ursæ Majoris	Orionids	$\alpha$ Draconis	Taurids II.	δ Caneri
Observer or Authority.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.W. & T.	Z.	W.	W.	W.Z. & H.
No. of	56	31	17	13	14	91	∞	12	∞	13	<b>∞</b>	6	27	01
Radiant Point. R.A. Dec.	147 + 22	142+29	132 + 20	122 + 14	144 + 52	120+23	175+32	134+8	142 + 17	140+62	94+18	200+67	83+23	133+19
Period of Shower.	Nov. 1-15	Nov. 1-15	Nov. 1-15	Nov. 1–15	Nov. 1-15	Nov. 1-15	Nov. 1-15	Nov. 1-15	Nov. I-15	Nov. 1-15	Nov. 9-12	Dec. 7-13	Dec. 7-13	Dec. 9-12
sef. No.	.0	. 🖽	.23	<u>.</u> 8	, <del>7</del>	55	99	. 22	28	69	20	71	12	73

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λ, μ Ursæ Majoris 149 + 45, Dec. 9-13, S. & Z. Compare Nos. 36 and 58.	See No. 63.) These three showers, with the two preceding,	See No. 61. (until about the middle of December. Radia-	See No. 57.) tion is sustained from the same points.	180+53, Dec. 12, S. & Z. A well defined shower.	Seen chiefly by Zezioli, Jan. 28. Requires further proof.
λ, μ Ursæ Majoris	¢ Cancri	$\chi$ Leonis	ı-к Ursæ Maj.	$\chi$ Ursæ Maj.	Camelopardus
W.Z. & H.	W.Z. & H.	W.Z. & H.	W.Z. & H.	W.Z. & H.	Z.S. & H.
91	II	10	II	10	56
152+43	120+15	143+28	134 + 50	178+46	110+70
Dec. 9-12	Dec. 9-12	Dec. 9-12	Dec. 9-12	Dec. 9-12	Jan. 6-Feb. 16
74	75	92	77	78	79

The abbreviations are—H., Heis (Observations from 1833-75; W., Weiss (Austrian Observations, 1867-74); Z., Zezioli (Observations at Bergamo, in Italy, 1867-70); S., Schiaparelli (Italian Observations, 1872); K., Konkoly (Hungarian Observations, 1871-76); G. & H. Greg and Herschel (British Association Observations, 1850-74); T., Tupman (Observations in the Mediterranean, 1869-71); and D., Denning (Observations at Bristol, 1876-78)